

parallel (x, y) and perpendicular (z) positions, velocities, and motion relative to the panel. These will be discussed below in more detail with regard to FIGS. 9-12.

[0042] FIG. 3a illustrates an exemplary mutual capacitance scheme for dynamically reconfiguring sensor size and shape using intersecting composite drive lines and composite sense lines to form a composite electrode according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 3a, sensor panel 200 may include drive lines 201 and sense lines 202. Drive lines 201a-e can be connected to each other through switches 215, illustrated symbolically in FIG. 3a. Note that switches 215, although drawn adjacent to sensor panel 200 in FIG. 3a, can be located on a separate panel subsystem as shown in FIG. 1. Thus, drive lines 201a-e can form a composite drive line 211 that can simultaneously or nearly simultaneously send a drive signal to all the pixels defined by lines 201a-e. Similarly, sense lines 202a-e can be connected to each other through switches 213, illustrated symbolically in FIG. 3a. Thus, sense lines 202a-e can form a composite sense line 212 that can send a combined sense signal from all the pixels defined by lines 202a-e. The intersecting pixels of composite drive line 211 and composite sense line 212 can form composite electrode 214 as a single pixel, illustrated by the shaded region in FIG. 3a. The sensing circuitry can only sense the total capacitance of these pixels in composite electrode 214 and not their individual capacitances. In essence, what were individual pixels are now connected to form a single pixel. As a result, the pixel size and shape of sensor panel 200 may be reconfigured in this portion of the panel. If the pixel size and shape are to be reconfigured back, one or both of switches 213 and 215 may be disabled.

[0043] FIG. 3b illustrates an exemplary mutual capacitance scheme for dynamically reconfiguring sensor size and shape using a composite drive electrode formed from one group of parallel sense lines and a composite sense electrode formed from another group of parallel sense lines according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 3b, all of sense lines 202a-d can be connected to each other through switches 225 (illustrated symbolically in FIG. 3b) to form composite drive electrode 224, illustrated by the left shaded region in FIG. 3b. Note that switches 225, although drawn adjacent to sensor panel 200 in FIG. 3b, can be located on a separate panel subsystem as shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment, composite drive electrode 224 can be created by simultaneously or nearly simultaneously sending a drive signal via composite drive line 221 through sense lines 202a-d. Similarly, sense lines 202e-i can be connected to each other through switches 223 (illustrated symbolically in FIG. 3b) for the pixels defined by the intersections of each of drive lines 201 with sense lines 202e-i to form composite sense electrode 225, illustrated by the right shaded region in FIG. 3b. Thus, sense lines 202e-i can form a composite sense line 222 that can send a combined sense signal from all the pixels defined by lines 202e-i.

[0044] In summary, in the embodiment of FIG. 3b, the drive lines 201 may not be used, and sense lines 202 may be grouped into composite drive electrode 224 and composite sense electrode 225 located adjacent to each other. The composite drive electrode 224 and sense electrode 225 can form a single mutual capacitance sensor across which fringing electric field lines may be formed when the composite drive electrode 224 is stimulated with a stimulation signal. A finger or other object touching down or hovering over the sensor

panel may block some of the electric field lines, resulting in a reduction in the amount of charge coupled across the sensor. This change in coupled charge can then be detected by the sensing circuitry.

[0045] As a result, the pixel size and shape of sensor panel 200 may be reconfigured in these portions of the panel. If the pixel size and shape are to be reconfigured back, one or both of switches 223 and 225 may be disabled.

[0046] FIG. 4a illustrates an exemplary self capacitance scheme for dynamically reconfiguring sensor size and shape using composite columns of electrodes according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 4a, sensor panel 200 may include an array of electrodes, where each electrode may be formed at the intersection of a drive and sense line. Columns of electrodes can be connected to each other by configurable switches represented symbolically by conductive lines 238a-e and conductive lines 233 to form composite electrode 234 as a single pixel, illustrated by the shaded region in FIG. 4a. Thus, the electrodes can send a combined sense signal 232 from all the pixels defined by these electrodes. The sensing circuitry can only sense the total capacitance of these pixels in composite electrode 234 and not their individual capacitances. As a result, the pixel size and shape of sensor panel 200 may be reconfigured in this portion of the panel. If the pixel size and shape are to be reconfigured back, one or both of lines 233 and 238 may be disabled.

[0047] FIG. 4b illustrates an exemplary self capacitance scheme for dynamically reconfiguring sensor size and shape using composite rows of electrodes according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 4b, rows of electrodes can be connected to each other by configurable switches represented symbolically by conductive lines 248a-e and conductive lines 243 to form composite electrode 244 as a single pixel, illustrated by the shaded region in FIG. 4b. Thus, the electrodes can send a combined sense signal 242 from all the pixels defined by these electrodes. The sensing circuitry can only sense the total capacitance of these pixels in composite electrode 244 and not their individual capacitances. As a result, the pixel size and shape of sensor panel 200 may be reconfigured in this portion of the panel. If the pixel size and shape are to be reconfigured back, one or both of lines 243 and 248 may be disabled.

[0048] FIG. 4c illustrates an exemplary self capacitance scheme for dynamically reconfiguring sensor size and shape using composite loop electrodes according to embodiments of the invention. In the example of FIG. 4c, all of the electrodes in a loop can be connected to each other by configurable switches represented symbolically by conductive lines 253 and 255 that connect their drive and sense lines to form composite loop electrode 254 as a single pixel, illustrated by the heavy line in FIG. 4c. Thus, the electrodes can send a combined sense signal 252 from all the pixels defined by these electrodes. The sensing circuitry can only sense the total capacitance of these pixels in composite electrode 254 and not their individual capacitances. As a result, the pixel size and shape of sensor panel 200 may be increased in this portion of the panel. If the pixel size and shape are to be increased again, one or both of lines 253 and 255 may be disabled.

[0049] In some embodiments, the sensor panel may dynamically switch between different mutual capacitance schemes, such as in FIGS. 3a and 3b. This may be accomplished by enabling and disabling the appropriate switches that connect the drive and sense lines involved in forming a